New Finance Director

The sun-filled, former children’s library room at the Town Hall serves as the Cornwall Finance Director’s office. As of July 2, it has a new tenant. Barbara Cantoni now sits in the chair formerly occupied by Lisa Lansing Simont.

Lisa leaves the job that was “a perfect fit” after 16 years of dedicated, focused attention to the myriad details necessary to support a wide variety of complicated tasks, and she leaves with nothing but respect and admiration for everyone involved. Lisa’s MBA in Public Finance from Boston University provided the solid foundation that enabled her to grow as her job expanded over the years.

Barbara’s equally impressive résumé seems guaranteed to provide a continued pattern of success. For the past three years she has filled the role of Assistant Assessor for the Town of Cornwall. Prior to that time, she was the finance director at Pinnacle Farm. In addition, Barbara has done general accounting, bookkeeping, and tax work for the Town of Bethlehem, the Bridgewater Library, and for six Northwest Corner pharmacies.

In preparation for a smooth transition, Lisa has compiled an impressive array of well-organized, highly detailed binders, notebooks, and calendars. She and Barbara will review these together. Lisa also plans to be available for conferencing as needed throughout the year.

—Sharon Dietzel

The Eighth-Grade Day

Fourteen deserving students were given a warm send-off on June 7, their graduation day. The supportive community spirit of Cornwall was credited by student speaker Nathan King in his speech “You Can Go Home Again.” After living away from town for two years, he returned to appreciate the unique qualities here that will help him to step forward in life. Steven Heaney, a ten-year alumnus, credited the community of CCS and Cornwall to his making a career of community service. He said, “Get involved. If everyone works, a lot gets done!”

Three students were honored with special awards: the VFW Citizenship Award went to Genevieve Terrall; the Dottie Hermann Memorial Award to Meghan Brown; and the award for outstanding academic achievement to Reilly Lynch. The PTA gave each student a gift. And CCS gave special recognition to Anne Zinsser for her years of volunteer reading enrichment with students.

At the morning awards program, teachers expressed their difficulty in choosing the recipients “since they are all so great.” The Civic Club provided savings bonds to students in these subjects: art—Apryl Classey and William Morehouse; music (instrumental)—Genevieve Terrall, vocal—Danielle Kearns, general—Liam Murphy-Saunders; physical education—Danielle Kearns and Reilly Lynch. In English the Mark Van Doren prize went to Camilla Busby and the Edna Peet award to Sarah Mulberry. Camilla Busby also won the social studies award along with Reilly Lynch. The award for excellence in history, provided by the Cornwall Historical Society, was given to Nathan King. Science awards went to Genevieve Terrall and Oliver Fox, and the world language award to Danielle Kearns. In math, the award for excellence in algebra was earned by Reilly Lynch and the grade-eight math award by Anouchka Sofia.

—Ginny Potter

Memorial Day 2007

Memorial Day is and should be a time of tradition—not the occasion of “new news” that finally appears in the creeping Chronicle a month later. Formal ceremony cannot be overdone when it comes to honoring those who have given their lives for our chance to make something good of our nation.

And so it was in Cornwall on May 28. Tradition began at 9 A.M., with Charles Gold leading Decoration Day ceremonies at the North Cornwall Cemetery. The 10 A.M. Seaman’s Memorial Service at the Covered Bridge saw the traditional wreath float away down the Housatonic. And at 11 A.M., despite a forecast of “possible passing showers,” no rain fell on the parade. In fact, the weather

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Town Hall News
Cornwall has been officially labeled part of a “disaster area” as a result of the April 15 nor'easter and thus is eligible for FEMA relief. Road Foreman Rick Stone estimates the damage at $100,000, mainly for roadside washouts, with $24,000 of that for erosion around a culvert at Lake Road. The town intends to apply for FEMA’s 75 percent reimbursement.

“Welcome to Cornwall Village: Please Drive Slowly.” Three handsome new signs are in the works, thanks to funding from the Cornwall Village Improvement Society and the artistry of Zejke Hermann. They will be placed near the Historical Society, near the Post Office, and at the corner of Jewell and Pine.

—Bob Potter

Welcome
Connor Shae to Nicole and Rodney Ball
Eliza Ann to Catherine and Joshua Tyson
Mateo LeDuc to Caroline Dorsen and Alex LeDuc

Good-Bye to a Friend
Timothy Robert Hohfelder

Congratulations
Patsy Merr to James Edward Oliver
Joan Elizabeth Stuart to Leroy Graham, Jr.
Anna Uttrato to David Hubbard

Land Transfers
Seth P. MacLean, Sarah S. MacLean, and Kenneth MacLean, Jr., to G. Gregory and Natalie T. Randall, two parcels of land with buildings and improvements thereon at 27 Pine Street for $266,666.67 each (1/3 interest each).
Jennifer L. Bury and Gail M. Burns to Allen G. Herkimer III and Judith A. Herkimer, house and 5 acres at 42 Bald Mountain Road, Dark Entry Association, for $100,000.
Jose C. Firimano to Evaldo Mendes, house and 7.386 acres at 268 Great Hollow Road for $435,000.
Anne A. Hubbard to David J. Hubbard, land with buildings and improvements thereon at 16 Pine Street for $100,000.

Wadham's Words of Wisdom
Sadly, this day had to come.
Darleene Wadham is retiring after teaching for 37 years here in Cornwall. So many years, so many children introduced to learning and CCS life in her classroom. And so many memorable traditions established by her—the Thanksgiving dinner, 100’s day, the circus, and Mother’s Day tea. CCS will miss being a piece of its soul come September.
I had a chance to interview Darleene last month as her final school year was winding down:

When did you start teaching at CCS?
I graduated from college in May of 1970, and I began teaching second grade at CCS in September. My first class had 28 children in it. My salary was $7,300 for the year. I taught second grade from 1970 to 1979, and in 1979 I changed to kindergarten where I have been ever since.

How many children have you taught?
Probably about 600 children, give or take a few.

What are the biggest changes in education that you have seen since you started?
The biggest change is the pressure to add more to the curriculum at every grade level due to the emphasis put on testing. It seems like more of the first grade demands are funneled to kindergarten, second to first, etc. I was given a print by a colleague, and it said, “The work will wait while you show the children the rainbow, but the rainbow won’t wait while you finish the work.” Sad but true!

Another major change I have observed over the years is the need for day care, beginning at infancy, due to the fact that most families in today’s society must have both parents working in order to make ends meet.
Are children different today compared to when you started?
I believe that the biggest changes I have seen in kids over the years relate to the evolution of modern technology—TV, videos, computers, computer games, Game Boys, cell phones, etc. It makes me sad to know that the majority of today’s children’s first experience with a classic such as Charlotte’s Web is through a video rather than having the book read to them, one or two chapters at bedtime, leaving them to wonder and imagine what will happen next, or begging to hear “just one more chapter.” Many of today’s children don’t know how to entertain themselves, use their imaginations, or even play outside as much, because it is easier to click a button.

What is your favorite thing about being a teacher?
I love going to work every day and being greeted by my students, who are all clamoring for my attention at the same time. It is so exciting to observe the changes that take place in each one during the course of a year. I compare them to the metamorphosis of the monarch butterfly that we study in September. They begin school like the caterpillar, and they “shed their skins” many times as they progress through the year. The classroom is their chrysalis where they feel safe and develop their “wings” and are ready to take flight to a new place in June. But, like the ancestors of the monarch butterfly who always return to the same place, so do the kiddoes at CCS. They are always stopping back in my room to just check it out or to share a memory of a particular tradition or project that they remember being involved in.

Any particularly memorable moments?
My most memorable take place in the classroom each day, whether it is something the kiddoes say or something they bring me, like the time one little boy brought me his mom’s diamond ring that he was positive she didn’t want anymore. Some days are like Alexander’s Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, but the kiddoes always manage to make me smile. Other memories that I hold near and dear to my heart are the friendships that I have made with my colleagues, community members, and parents in my CCS family. I will be forever grateful for the love, loyalty, and support that they have given me over the past 37 years.

What are your plans for the future?
I plan to spend more time with my parents and mother-in-law—time to give back just a little of what they have given to me. I recently obtained my

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real estate license and will be working part-time at the Hennepin Brekell Agency in Goshen. I hope to do a little traveling with my husband, Rick, when he retires next year. I also look forward to having leisure time to read, do craft projects, etc.

—Annie Kosciusko

Some Cornwall Numbers

- 2040 Census population peak (1850)
- 1031 Panes of glass in the North Cornwall Church
- 1002 Number of registered voters in Cornwall
- 842 Cows milked in 1925
- 834 Census population low (1920)
- 600 Miles of stone walls (est.)
- 119 Miles now driven daily by U.S. Mail carriers
- 77 Persons who voted in the last Region One referendum
- 44 More women than men (2000 census)
- 15 Dollars per acre paid for land in 1920
- 8 Inches of ice needed to drive across Cream Hill Lake
- 26 Lowest “official” temperature recorded (1934)

—Bob Potter

Events & Announcements

Grumbling Gryphons Theater Arts Camp: Celebrate the arts this July at Cornwall’s Town Hall. Sponsored by Park & Rec., theater camp will be held for children ages 7 to 15 on Tuesday, July 17, through Saturday, July 21, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Leslie Elias and guest artists will lead the children in drama, music, storytelling, art, musical instrument-making, and drumming. Special workshops for four- to six-year-olds will be held in the afternoons from 1:30 to 3 P.M. The week will culminate in camp children performing for the general public on Saturday at 3 P.M. at the Town Hall. For fees and registration contact Leslie Elias at 672-0286.

Third Annual Community Picnic: Saturday, July 7, at Foote Fields (rain date July 8). Sponsored by Park & Rec. and the Cornwall Association, this year’s gala will celebrate 75 years of service by the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. Food will be served from noon to 6 P.M. by the CCS eighth graders, with donations welcome to support their class trip. Kids can enjoy inflatable rides in the afternoon.

The picnic also features the Cornwall Cup Softball Tournament. Teams are organized by zip code with a fourth from Yelping Hill/ North Cornwall. 10 A.M.: Cornwall Bridge (06754) vs. YH/NC. Noon: Cornwall Village (06753) vs. West Cornwall (06796). The two victors will face each other at 3 P.M. All are invited to play. Contact Dusty Sandmeyer (672-0232) for Cornwall Bridge, the Cheneys (672-6234) for Cornwall Village, Skip Kosciusko (672-3169) for West Cornwall, or Josh Duber (672-0036) for Yelping Hill/ North Cornwall.

At 6 P.M. the Homegrown Band will play contra-dance music for all ages and abilities, with a big Happy Birthday cake for the CVFD.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT ANSWERS

From day to day we Cornwall folks go about the routines and pastimes of our lives without much thought of an immediate personal emergency. It’s human nature to try to ignore worries and put off problems. But when your wife falls down steep stairs, suddenly you are distraught—the emergency is real.

How can you adequately thank a crew of some nine professional-level volunteer neighbors who give up everything they’re doing (often a good chunk of night’s sleep) to run to your side in a medical emergency? That is the question you’re faced with in Cornwall after you call 911. And don’t expect an answer from me. I don’t have one.

Where would we be without our volunteer EMTs and crew? That’s the second question without an answer. Just be thankful there are such people in our community (how can you not?), support the Cornwall Fire Department with your donations, and try not to fall down stairs.

—Scoville Soulé

FARM FRIENDLINESS

On a recent Sunday, 20-some Black Angus cattle ranged all over Cornwall. As illustrated by various escapades that day, loose cattle can be a community concern. If we are to be truly a farm-friendly community, it behooves us to better acquaint ourselves with cattle behavior and what to do when the cows are out. Unless we act rationally, a cow on the road is an accident waiting to happen. Our primary concern today must be to keep them off the roads.

Number one lesson: be quiet and move slowly around cattle. Personally, I’ve tried running to head off cattle MANY times and have yet to out-run one. Moving into their space just slowly enough to pressure them to take slow steps toward where you want them to go works best. The more human bodies in this endeavor the better. Cows’ eyes bulge out from the sides of their heads so they can see behind themselves without turning their heads. Stretch your hands and arms out wide so they think there’s less space to circle back through. Encourage them to move SLOWLY toward other cows. Often, they’ll go right back in to where they got out. They may just be happy to wait near other cows until you find someone who knows where they belong. (Exception: some pet cows are so used to people that if you are slow and quiet, they may not move at all unless you take them by the collar or slap them on the rump.)

If the cattle are on the road and you are in a car and don’t want to stop, turn on your flashers and creep around them. If you move slowly enough, they’ll move out of your way without denting your front end. Never blow your horn. DO alert oncoming traffic by flashing or blinking your headlights. If possible, when you get to your destination, please give the farmer and the neighbors a call to let them know. They can often either lead or entice their cows with a bucket of grain or a special call. The speed and excitement of moving cattle should be opposite of everything you’ve seen on TV or in the movies. Even though there’s no thunder of hooves or cloud of dust, there is something wonderfully satisfying about helping out a neighbor and contributing to the safety of one’s rural community.

Besides preventing accidents, it is important to understand cattle behavior so that we handle this “problem” as a community, neighbor to neighbor. Once we start depending on greater organizations to handle these matters (i.e., calling 911 or the State Police instead of moving cattle back where they belong), we give up our independence as a community and subject ourselves to broad-spectrum regulation that will probably not be farm friendly, or appropriate for Cornwall.

—Debra Tyler, Local Farm

WHERE’S YOUR NUMBER?

Time is of the essence in getting trained people and equipment to neighbors who need help from the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. To locate you in an emergency, medical technicians and firefighters rely on the house number and street name provided when you called 911. If they have trouble locating you, the time they wasted could be significant.

Here are a few steps to be certain your house number is readily visible:

- Drive along your road and approach your home from both directions. Your house number should be clearly visible from each direction.
- Your numbers should be at least four inches high, reflective, and stand out against their background.
- If you live along a lane or shared driveway, your house number should be displayed at both the main road and your home.
- If you need assistance with any of these tasks, just call the Selectmen’s Office, 672-4959, and they will arrange help for you.

—Gordon Ridgway

Then and Now, an Exhibit at the Cornwall Historical Society of old and new photos of homes and other viewpoints, illustrating changes from past to present, will open with a reception on Friday, July 27, from 4 to 6 P.M. For information or to loan pictures call the Society at 672-0505.
Welcome and encouraged to attend.

Candidates will be endorsed for next November’s municipal election. All registered Republicans are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A Democratic Caucus will be held on Thursday, July 19, at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Hall. Candidates will be endorsed for next November’s municipal election. All registered Democrats are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A Republican Caucus will be held on Monday, July 23, at 7 P.M. at the West Cornwall Firehouse. Candidates will be endorsed for next November’s municipal election. All registered Republicans are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A Map of Hiking Trails and old roads, prepared by David Colbert, is available for copying in the Cornwall Library. If the Library is closed, try the Town Office. Call David (672-6726) with any suggestions for improvement.

An Interfaith Service will be held on the Town Green at 10:30 A.M. on Sunday, July 29.

The Star-Spangled Banner is summer, fireflies, picnics, The Star-Spangled Banner, and all that. We’re struggling with the news that our mailing costs have gone up again—no picnic! We are hoping our out-of-town readers will consider a contribution of $15. And a donation of any kind helps pay Uncle Sam and keeps our pinwheels spinning. Thanks!

The glorious Fourth

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Connolly Captured: A P&Z would like photos of your favorite places in Cornwall. Professional and amateur photographers, young and old, are encouraged to participate. Photographs of scenic vistas, special places, and structures are requested. Photos will be displayed in the Library in November. The pictures should be 8” x 10”, unframed. For more information contact Gail Jacobson at 672-6639 or gailjacobson@mindspring.com.

Calling Cornwall Artists! If you are an artist 21 or over, living in Cornwall, and want to exhibit in the Rose Alfragrant Art Show on August 3, call Bee Simont (672-6144) before July 15.

Art in Cornwall: The Outsiders/Insiders Gallery will feature eight artists, printmakers, and carvers in a show entitled Landscapes and Escapes from June 30 to August 12.

Beginning July 3, the walls of the Cornwall Library will display paintings by Phyllis Nauts entitled Portraits et al. An artist’s reception will be held on July 7 from 5 to 7 P.M. Christina Gyorsok’s collection of antique greeting cards will be exhibited in the case. The Wish House will continue to show the whimsical artwork of Leila Orienter through July.

Motherhouse Events:
- July 14: Old Style Life Skills Series Workshop: Keeping a Family Cow. Learn about finding, feeding, housing, fencing, and caring for your own cow with Debra Tyler at Local Farm. Try milking. Make butter, soft cheese, ice cream, and MOOore. 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. $35/person or $50/family of up to four. Pre-registration required. Contact 672-0229 or Debra@motherhouse.us.
- July 21: Mother-Son Day. 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. at Local Farm. A relaxing day of activities for mothers and sons to share. Build your own tool box. Hunt for treasure. Cook lunch by the campfire. Make ice cream. $35/mother-son pair. Pre-register as above.
- July 21: Family Round Sing. 7:30 P.M. in the Local Farm barn. Join in singing simple melodies to create delightful harmonies. Free. Call Debra at 672-0229 for more information.

The Woman’s Society Annual Rummage Sale will take place on July 14, 15, and 16. (See insert in this issue.)

Sally Van Doren, the recipient of the 2007 Walt Whitman Award, one of the most prestigious book contests in the United States, will read from her poetry Saturday, July 28, at 4 P.M. at the Cornwall Free Library. A reception will follow.

Automatic Fire Alarms: The Fire Department reminds us that homeowners who have automatic systems installed must register a nearby neighbor as a “key holder”—a local resident who has a key to the alarmed property. In the absence of the owner, the key holder must be able to respond within ten minutes and admit firefighters to the home following any automatic alarm. The availability of a prompt response by a key holder will avoid the necessity of requiring firefighters to use forcible methods to gain entry. Owners of property equipped with automatic fire alarms can register their key holder with their alarm company or with the town’s Fire Marshal at 364-0909.

Meditation for Mothers Location Change: Thursday meetings in July will be at St. Peter’s Church from 1:15 to 2:15 P.M. Call Debra Tyler to confirm, 672-0229. Sunday’s meditation remains 1 to 2 P.M. Please call Debra for location.

THE CHRONICLE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

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